



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

United States Space Program Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	United States Space Program Collection
Date:	1950-1974 (bulk 1959-1974)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0154
Creator:	National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Space Science and Exploration Department
Extent:	13.08 Cubic feet ((12 records center boxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

NASA SS&E, Transfer, 1983, XXXX-0154, unknown

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was inaugurated on 1 October 1958 with the intent of conducting a manned space program. NASA took over the rocketry and propulsion work previously performed by the United States Air Force, Navy, and National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Unmanned launches began during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58) under Air Force auspices and have continued to the present with a wide variety of payloads, including space science, weather, communications, and earth observation satellites. The manned program progressed through Projects Mercury (1959-63; launches 1961-63), Gemini (1962-67; launches 1965-66), Apollo (1960-72; launches 1968-72), and Skylab (1969-74; launches 1973-74). The manned program was supported by a number of unmanned exploration vehicles in the Ranger, Lunar Orbiter, and Surveyor series throughout the 1960s, as well as research into a number of related areas.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of material gathered by the Space Science and Exploration Department, National Air and Space Museum, relating to the United States space program through the Skylab missions. The material

consists of photos and reference material covering a wide variety of subjects, including space suits, food, lifting bodies, and other support and auxiliary functions, as well as material directly relating to the missions. The bulk of the material consists of photos and NASA press materials.

General

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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Astronautics
- Manned space flight
- Rocketry
- Rockets (Aeronautics)
- Space Shuttle Orbiter
- Space flight
- Space suits
- Space vehicles -- Propulsion systems

Types of Materials:

- Manuals
- Photographs
- Press releases
- Publications

Names:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Space Science and Exploration Department
- Project Apollo (U.S.)
- Project Gemini (U.S.)
- Project Mercury (U.S.)
- Project Surveyor (U.S.)
- Skylab Program
- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Places:

- Outer space -- Exploration